



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Another topic, introduced into the Dissertations, relates to the best mode of studying languages. Many of the remarks made by Gesenius, and the other authors of these Dissertations, on this point, are grounded in the nature of the human mind, are confirmed by their own experience in teaching, and are worthy the attention of the scholar, whatever his country and wherever he may be educated. It is a grand point in the acquisition of languages, while the faculties are kept in patient and vigorous exercise, not to burden them with too many dry details, and especially not to overload and constrain the memory. In the study of the Hebrew, after a person has become fundamentally acquainted with the theory of the vowels, and made himself master of the pronouns, verbs, and declensions, he ought not to be denied the pleasure of attempting to construe, and should endeavour to connect the theory and the practice, the grammar and the interpretation. ‘Grammar,’ says Jahn, ‘is merely the medium of learning the languages with more facility, but the medium is not to be so commuted for the ultimate end, that more pains should be bestowed on the former than on the latter.’ The Hebrew syntax, though not deficient in general principles, exhibits a multitude of peculiarities and exceptions. To commit to memory the whole of it, together with all the multiplied rules and exceptions, which appear in other parts of the grammar in the first instance, is unadvisable. They had better be learned by a recurrence to them, as occasion may require, after the student has begun to construe; a recurrence which will be pleasing, if he has imbibed the spirit of oriental literature. Let the student, after he has studied the whole or a part of a book, pursue the method of Wytenbach, peruse it again carefully, and repeat the perusal, till he has trodden familiarly the crooked path of its anomalies, and its beauties begin to open more fully upon his mind.

ART. VI.—*Memoirs of Algernon Sydney, by George Wilson Meadley, with an Appendix.* 8vo, London, 1813.

No portion of English history presents stronger claims to attention than the last sixty years of the seventeenth century, a period in which that nation made the most rapid advances in civil and religious freedom. It is impossible to

trace without lively interest the progress of the spirit of free inquiry to which the reformation gave birth, and the great change in manners and opinions which resulted from it. This revolution in the minds of men was gradual, and for a long time unnoticed. The novel doctrines of the rights of subjects and the duties and accountableness of sovereigns, began early in that century to be agitated, rather as matter of speculation than with any view to their practical application. These opinions, however, soon gained ground, and began to be openly advanced and defended, when an ill timed and oppressive exercise of the royal prerogative roused the resentment of the nation and led to a struggle, which terminated in the overthrow of the monarchy, and the death of the sovereign. The reaction, which naturally succeeded to a revolution so sudden and violent, had the effect to replace his son on the throne, with a degree of precipitancy and imprudence which gave no opportunity to obtain any provision for the security of the rights of the subject. These rights were accordingly disregarded by a profligate and thoughtless prince, who forgot even the trifling stipulations on which his restoration depended. The spirit of liberty had now however proceeded too far to be extinguished; the nation soon became sensible of its error; this weak and unprincipled family was again driven from the throne, and the century closed with the accession of William III, and the establishment of the British constitution nearly in the form in which it actually exists. Among the actors in this extraordinary train of events, are to be found some of the most illustrious names in modern history. Of this number Algernon Sydney is one of the most conspicuous. His noble descent, his ardent and lofty spirit, the boldness of his opinions, and the intrepidity with which he supported them, the misfortunes of his life, and above all his untimely and cruel fate, conspire to excite an unusual degree of interest. As generally happens to those who fall a sacrifice to opinions, his memory has been cherished by his friends with the most enthusiastic devotion; and we may add, what can be said of few martyrs, that those who have discovered the least indulgence for his political creed, have rarely denied him the merit of consistency and disinterestedness. The part he took in political affairs is well known to the readers of history, but we have been furnished, until the publication of the volume under review, with very scanty information respecting his private life.

Nor is the deficiency so fully supplied by this work as we had reason to expect from the author's preface, in which he mentions the advantages he derived from having access to the manuscripts at Penshurst, and other important papers. Although by no means a new publication in England, Mr Meadley's book is very little known in this country; we shall therefore give a short abstract of its contents, which may enable the reader to form a tolerably correct judgment of the author's success.

Algernon Sydney was descended from a line of ancestors equally distinguished by rank and merit. His great grandfather, sir William Sydney, was a favorite of Edward VI, who bestowed on him the park and manor of Penshurst in Kent; sir Henry Sydney, who was viceroy in Ireland in the reign of Elizabeth, and the well known sir Philip Sydney, were his great uncles. His grandfather, sir Robert Sydney, governor of Flushing, was raised to the peerage by James I, as baron Sydney of Penshurst, and afterwards created viscount Lisle and earl of Leicester. From him the title descended to his son, who seems to have inherited with it no small share of the talents and virtues of his illustrious progenitors. He married the lady Dorothy Percy, daughter of the earl of Northumberland. Algernon, their second son, was born in 1622, and appears to have given early indications of uncommon powers. In 1632, at the age of ten years, he, with his elder brother, the lord Lisle, accompanied his father in his embassy to Christian IV, king of Denmark. In 1636 his father was appointed ambassador to the court of France, and wishing to have his sons under his immediate inspection, he again took them along with him, and to his instructions, and the objects presented to the mind of young Sydney at that period, is in a great measure ascribed his early bias to political inquiries. On the return of lord Leicester to England, his son was sent to Italy, and resided some time at Rome during the pontificate of Urban VIII.

On the death of the unfortunate lord Strafford, the earl of Leicester received the appointment of lord lieutenant of Ireland, (June 14, 1641,) but owing to some distrust of him, which the king had afterwards imbibed, he could not procure his despatch. He sent, however, his two sons into Ireland, the lord Lisle being at the head of a regiment of horse, in which Algernon, then in his nineteenth year, commanded a troop.

Here both the brothers acquitted themselves with great honor against the Irish insurgents. Meanwhile the disputes between the king and the parliament had proceeded to an open rupture, and lord Leicester, notwithstanding his late disappointment, espoused the royal cause. Some jealousy however of his sincerity still existing in the mind of the king, he was unable to obtain possession of his government in Ireland; at which he was so much offended, that he soon retired to Penshurst, and seems never after to have taken an active part in politics. The two brothers quickly discovered that they had not escaped the suspicion that had fallen on their father, and in consequence obtained permission to return to England. They arrived at Chester, August 1643, where their horses were seized by the royalists in violation of their father's license, which induced them again to put to sea. On landing soon after at Liverpool, they were detained by the commissioners of the parliament till farther orders were received respecting them. A letter from Sydney to Orlando Bridgman, a royalist of Chester, praying that his horses might be restored to enable him to proceed to join the king at Oxford, and professing attachment to the royal cause, was intercepted, and in consequence himself and his brother were sent under guard to London. This circumstance tended to exasperate the king, who imputed it to an artifice of their own; and from this time Sydney appears to have deserted his interest, for we find that on the 10th of May, 1644, he was appointed a captain of horse in the duke of Manchester's army, the parliament voting four hundred pounds for his equipments and arrears. In a few weeks he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and on the 2d of July was seriously wounded, while charging gallantly at the head of his regiment in the battle of Marston Moor. When the army was new modelled (1645) Sydney procured the command of a regiment of horse in Cromwell's division of the army under the command of sir Thomas Fairfax. He bore upon his banner the following motto: '*Sanctus amor patriæ dat animum.*'

On the 10th of May, in the same year, he was appointed governor of Chichester, and soon after elected into parliament for the borough of Cardiff. Although the royal cause in England had received a fatal blow at Naseby, (June 14, 1645,) and the king had surrendered himself to the Scots, his adherents in Ireland still kept the field in considerable force. Lord

Lisle was appointed lord lieutenant, in the place of lord Inchiquin, who had incurred the suspicion of the parliament, but who nevertheless, had sufficient influence in that body to prevent his successor from obtaining possession of his government until the year for which it had been granted had nearly expired. Sydney accompanied his brother to Ireland; two thousand pounds were voted in payment of his arrears, (Jan. 4, 1646-7,) and he was appointed lieutenant-general of horse in that kingdom, and governor of Dublin. Their stay in Ireland was short, for the interest of the lord Inchiquin was sufficient to prevent the renewal of lord Lisle's commission, as well as to remove Sydney from his post. In consequence, the brothers returned to England in April, and received the thanks of the parliament for their good conduct.

At this period the contest between the presbyterians and independents was proceeding with the utmost violence; the former endeavoring to preserve the ascendancy they possessed in the parliament, and the latter, of whom the army was principally composed, strongly inclined to make use of the power they derived from this circumstance to put a stop to the arbitrary and selfish proceedings of their opponents. Sydney, who was entirely free from religious enthusiasm, seems not to have sided with either of those factions, but to have uniformly endeavored, by mildness and impartiality, to uphold amid the tempest of the passions the cause of rational liberty. This contest was soon terminated by the violent measures of the army, who obtained possession by force of the person of the king, and removed the last impediment to their views by violently expelling the presbyterians from their seats in parliament. They next demanded the trial of the king, which the house was not in a situation to resist, and a commission was raised to sit in judgment upon him. Both Sydney and his brother were members of this court, and the former attended some of the preliminary meetings in the painted chamber. They were neither of them present, however, in Westminster Hall, but retired together to Penshurst, where they remained until sentence had been pronounced, and a warrant signed for the execution of their unhappy sovereign. It is difficult to account for the behaviour of Sydney at this momentous period, which seems not very consistent with his character or conduct on other occasions. That his declining to take a part in the condemnation of the king did not arise from con-

scientious scruples, is plain from his political principles, as laid down in his writings, from his frequently expressing his approbation of that act, and from the consequence he seems to have maintained in the parliament, where we find him on the 15th of May in the same year on a committee for settling the succession, and regulating the election of future parliaments. Nor does his family appear to have fallen under suspicion ; for, although his father was obliged to sign the engagement of fidelity to the commonwealth, the duke of Gloucester and the princess Elizabeth were intrusted by the parliament to the care of lady Leicester, with an allowance of three thousand pounds a year.

Sydney had been invested (13th of Oct. 1648) with the government of Dover castle. In the winter of 1650-1 he became involved in a quarrel with the officers of the garrison there, which gave rise to a court martial, whose report was unfavorable to Sydney. Thinking himself aggrieved, he applied to the parliament for redress, which he at last obtained, not without great inconvenience and delay. In the mean time, he went over to the Hague, where he had a quarrel with the earl of Oxford, whom he challenged, but the affair was settled without bloodshed.

On his return to England (1651) Sydney was assiduous in attention to his duties in parliament, and as a member of the council of state. The firm and vigorous administration of affairs at home, and the great success of the fleet under Blake, had now raised the spirits of the nation to a high pitch, and Sydney, ever alive to the true interest and prosperity of his country, began to look forward with the most exulting hopes. These pleasing anticipations were soon blasted by the ambitious projects of Cromwell, who saw with the utmost concern the attachment of the nation to a republican form of government, which it was far from his intention to establish. Failing in all his endeavors to bring the parliament to his views, he at length threw off the mask, and on the 16th of April 1653 dissolved that assembly by force. The conduct of Sydney on that memorable occasion is thus related in lord Leicester's journal : ' It happened that Algernon Sydney sat next the speaker, on the right hand ; the general said to Harrison, put him out ; Harrison spake to Sydney to go out, but he said he would not go out, and sat still. The general said again put him out ; then Harrison and Worsley put their hands upon

Sydney's shoulders, as if they would force him to go out; when he rose and went towards the door.' The indignation of Sydney at this and the subsequent measures of Cromwell was so openly and loudly expressed, as to give great offence to his brother, who adhered to the general. Unable to endure so mortifying a change in affairs, he sought at Penshurst, among the scenes of his childhood, to alleviate his chagrin in the society of his family. Here he remained until the restoration of peace with the United Provinces in 1654, when he again went over to the Hague, where he contracted an intimacy with the celebrated John De Witt, for whom he seems ever after to have entertained the highest admiration. On his return to England, Sydney again retired to Penshurst, where he devoted himself to literary pursuits. We find among his productions at this period an 'Essay on Love.' On the 3d of Sept. 1658, Cromwell died; and on the 7th of May 1659, the Long parliament was restored, and Sydney resumed his seat in that body, as well as at the council board. He had, however, little opportunity to distinguish himself in parliament during the interval between the death of the protector and the restoration of the king, for on the 5th of June he was appointed a commissioner with admiral Montagu, Honeywood and Boon, to mediate, in conjunction with the States General, a peace between the kings of Denmark and Sweden. This negotiation Sydney at length succeeded in bringing to a happy termination, though greatly embarrassed by the defection of Montagu, the selfish policy of the Dutch, and the unreasonable demands of both the contending parties. Charles Gustavus, king of Sweden, died before the conference was brought to a close. Sydney had conceived a high idea of his opinions and character, and felt a warm interest in the affairs of his young successor, Charles XI, who, on his taking leave of the court, (June 28, 1660) presented him with a gold chain and a picture of his father in a case set with diamonds. On the 8th of July he joined his colleague at Copenhagen, and on the 21st of the same month took leave of the king of Denmark. In the mean time the restoration of Charles II had taken place, and Sydney, while Honeywood returned to England to report their proceedings, thought it prudent to retire to Hamburg, until he should be advised of the temper of the court, and the situation of those, who, like himself, had borne a leading part in the service of the commonwealth. He at first entertained hopes

from the intimate connexion of Monk with himself and his family, and from some favorable expressions that had been reported to him from that minister, that he should be permitted to return to England on the honorable terms, on which alone he would consent to it. He was soon convinced by the treatment of his associates, and the treachery of Monk, that he had no hope of being received, but upon conditions which he considered disgraceful. He rejected with disdain the splendid offers made him by Monk; and to a friend, who had expostulated with him on his inflexibility, he vindicates his conduct in a letter, which, as the author justly observes, would have done honor to the noblest characters of Greece and Rome. We would gladly lay it before our readers entire, but its length obliges us to confine ourselves to the following extract :

‘ I confess we are naturally inclined to delight in our own country, and I have a particular love to mine. I hope I have given some testimony of it. I think that being exiled from it is a great evil, and would redeem myself from it with the loss of a great deal of my blood. But when that country of mine, which used to be esteemed a paradise, is now like to be made a stage of injury; the liberty we hoped to establish oppressed; luxury and lewdness set up in its height, instead of the piety, virtue, sobriety, and modesty which we hoped God by our hands would have introduced; the best of our nation made a prey to the worst; the parliament, court, and army corrupted; the people enslaved; all things vendible, no man safe but by such evil and infamous means as flattery and bribery; what joy can I have in my own country in this condition? Is it a pleasure to see all that I love in the world is sold and destroyed? Shall I renounce all my old principles, learn the vile court arts, and make my peace by bribing some of them? Shall their corruption and vice be my safety? Ah! no: better is a life among strangers, than in my own country on such conditions. Whilst I live, I will endeavour to preserve my liberty, or at least not consent to the destroying of it. I hope I shall die in the same principles in which I have lived, and will live no longer than they can preserve me. I have in my life been guilty of many follies; but, as I think, of no meanness. I will not blot and defile that which is past, by endeavoring to provide for the future. I have ever had in my mind that when God should cast me into such a condition, as I cannot save my life but by doing an indecent thing, he shews me the time is come wherein I should resign it: and, when I cannot live in my own country but by such means as are worse than dying in it, I think he shews me I ought to keep myself out of it.’

The conduct of Sydney was conformable to the sentiments here expressed. Conscious of honest intentions, he had nothing to repent of ; having, as he supposed, supported the rights and liberties of his country, and consulted her best interests, he could not make concessions to men whom he looked upon as her enemies and oppressors. He did not take the least pains to conceal his political opinions. In visiting one of the public libraries at Copenhagen, he wrote the famous lines in the Album :

‘Manus hæc inimica tyrannis
Ense petit placidam sub libertate quietem ;’

which Terlon, the French ambassador, on hearing it translated, for he did not understand Latin, indignantly tore from the book, as an insult to his sovereign. When it was observed to him in company at Copenhagen, ‘I think you were none of the late king’s judges, nor guilty of his death?’ He instantly replied, ‘*Guilty! do you call that guilt?* Why it was the justest and bravest action that ever was done in England or any where else.’

As might have been expected from such a course, Sydney was excepted from the general amnesty, and his application for an assurance of safety during a residence of a few months at Penshurst, for the arrangement of his private concerns, was refused. Sydney was more and more convinced by the fate of the republicans who had trusted to the king’s promises, and the profligacy and perfidy which marked the whole conduct of that monarch, that he could not with safety return to England. Hopeless and deserted, he was at a loss what course to take. After remaining some time at Hamburg, he wandered, apparently without an object, into Germany, and passed through the territories of Lunenburg, Brunswick, and Hesse, where the poverty and desolation of the country, and the fierce manners of the inhabitants seem to have had no very favorable effect upon his agitated mind. On reaching Frankfort on the Mayn, he found a milder and more fertile climate. Here he received intelligence from England, which was not calculated to remove the melancholy that had taken possession of him. He seems to have incurred the displeasure of his father, though we are not distinctly told on what account ; his pecuniary circumstances were embarrassed, in consequence of advances he had made to lord Strangford, his brother in law, a vicious and prodigal man, as well as by the expenses of his late employ-

ment. In these distressing circumstances he had thoughts of offering his services to the emperor Leopold, then engaged in a war against the Turks. This design he soon relinquished, and pursued his original intention of proceeding to Italy.

Meanwhile, the persecutions against the republicans proceeding with great rigor, in open violation of faith and honor, Sydney had reason to congratulate himself on the state of comparative security he enjoyed at Rome, where he arrived late in the autumn (1660.) Alexander VII, who then filled the papal chair, was a pontiff of a mild and gentle character. His prime minister and favorite, cardinal Pallavicini, was no less remarkable for his learning, than for his political sagacity and personal merit. With him Sydney soon contracted an acquaintance, and through him became known to several other members of the Sacred College, particularly to cardinal Chigi, the pope's nephew, Francesco and Antonio Barberini, Sachetti, and Spada, of whom, as well as of the prelates generally, he spoke in terms of respect. 'I do not find,' says he, 'that they want any quality that makes men estimable; and they are so far from that looseness of life, of which they have been formerly and ordinarily accused, that I have not seen any of that order do an indecent thing; and yet I mark them as narrowly as I can.'

In such society Sydney found some alleviation of his misfortunes. The only inconvenience he suffered was in consequence of injurious reports that were spread respecting his religious principles by some of his own countrymen. 'These however,' he says, 'are but slight vapors; and if nothing comes from England to my prejudice, I can easily blow them away.' During the three years that Sydney passed in Italy, he was no inattentive observer of the political occurrences of that period, nor of the manners and customs of the people. The following is a curious specimen of the habits of the court of Rome:

'The skill of preserving health, he says in one of his letters, is in great perfection in this place, exercised most upon old men. Little physic is used, things that are cooling and desiccative are mostly chosen. Their rules are reduced to these two principal heads, a slender diet, and much exercise. An old cardinal the other day told me that in other places exercise was good *citra sudorem*, but in Rome, by reason of the grossness of the air, it must be used *usque ad sudorem*. Besides the natural desire of living long and well, they are invited unto a more than ordinary

care, by hopes of advancing their fortune, few attaining unto any great matter here until they come to be old. Cardinal Sacchetti is now in his seventy-fifth year, and doth ordinarily walk three or four miles without resting, by which means he enjoys a prosperous health, and preserves his wits fresh and clear as in his youth.'

During the summer, several of the most distinguished persons in Rome invited him to accompany them to their villas in the neighborhood of the city. He availed himself of the kindness of prince Pamfili, nephew of the late pope Innocent X, who offered him apartments in his villa of Belvidere near Frascati. In one of his letters he thus describes his situation at this charming retreat :

' Whilst every body at Rome is panting and gasping for life in the heat, which they say this year is much greater than ordinary, I enjoy so fresh an air as to have no reason at all to complain of the sun. Here are walks and fountains in the greatest perfection, and though my natural delight in solitude is very much increased this last year, I cannot desire to be more alone than I am, and hope to continue. My conversation is with birds, trees, and books : In these last months that I have no business at all, I have applied myself to study a little more than I have done formerly ; and though one who begins at my age cannot hope to make any considerable progress this way, I find so much satisfaction in it, that for the future I shall very unwillingly, though I had the opportunity, put myself in any way of living that shall deprive me of that entertainment. Whatever hath been formerly the object of my thoughts and desires, I have now intention of seeking little more than quietness.'

In a subsequent letter, he adds :

' Nature, art, and treasure can hardly make a place more pleasant than this. The description of it would look more like poetry than truth. A Spanish lady coming not long since to see this house, seated on a large plain out of the middle of a rock, and a river brought to the top of the mountain, with the walks and fountains, ingeniously desired those that were present, not to pronounce the name of our Saviour, lest it should dissolve this beautiful enchantment. We have passed the solstice, and I have not yet had occasion to complain of heat, which in Rome is very excessive and hath filled the town with sickness, especially that part of it where I lived. Here it is that I look for health, quiet, and solitude. I am with some eagerness fallen to reading, and find so much satisfaction in it, that though I every morning see the sun rise, I never go abroad until six or seven of the clock at

night ; yet I cannot be so sure of my temper as to know certainly how long this manner of life will please me. I cannot but rejoice a little to find, that when I wander as a vagabond through the world, forsaken of my friends, and known only to be a broken limb of a shipwrecked faction, I yet find humanity and civility from those who are in the height of fortune and reputation.'

This grateful tribute to the hospitality of Rome has been uttered by a long succession of illustrious exiles from Sydney to our eloquent and lamented contemporary, Madame de Stael. In Rome the outcast and the friendless have ever found an asylum. She does not boast of toleration, but the sufferer for conscience' sake has rarely been driven from her walls. She does not hold herself up as the refuge of the oppressed, and call upon them to fly to her for protection, but year after year brings to her gates a throng of the persecuted and unfortunate, almost as numerous, and far more honorable, than the deputies who crowded the courts of her most powerful emperors. The abdicated queen of the north, the fugitive princes of Britain, the fallen dynasties of France and of Spain, have successively found a shelter, and learned a lesson of resignation, among the ruins of her imperial grandeur : the insulted advocate of popular rights reposes in honor and in peace with the kindred ashes of her Scipios and her Catos : the reviled and deserted sufferer for the cause of truth may tread with safety on the spot that is sprinkled with the blood of apostles. — 'Apud ignotos, apud barbaros, apud homines in extremis atque ultimis gentibus positos, nobile et illustre apud omnes nomen tuæ civitatis profuisset.'—Though Sydney found here the repose of which he stood so much in need, he could not forget that he was in a state of dependence, and strove in vain to banish from his mind the recollection of his former hopes, or the anticipation of future sufferings. He says, in the same letter from which we have before quoted,

'But I do also well know I am in a strange land, how far those civilities do extend, and that they are too airy to feed or clothe a man. I cannot so unite my thoughts unto one object as absolutely to forbid the memory of such things as these are, to enter into them : but I go as far as I can, and since I cannot forget what is past, nor be insensible to what is present, I defend myself reasonably well from increasing or anticipating evils by foresight. The power of foreseeing is a happy quality unto those who prosper, and can ever propose to themselves something of

greater felicity than they enjoy, but a most desperate mischief unto them, who by foreseeing, can discover nothing that is not worse than the evils they already feel. He that is naked, alone, and without help in the open sea, is less unhappy in the night when he may hope the land is near, than in the day when he sees it is not, and that there is no possibility of safety.'

The unrelenting severity with which those individuals of the republican party, who had fallen into the king's hands, had been treated, and the unworthy means that were made use of to destroy such of them as still eluded pursuit, began to alarm Sydney for his personal safety. One or two of his party had already fallen by the hands of assassins, from which no asylum can afford a perfect security. He therefore returned to the north of Europe, that he might not be wanting to his public duty, whilst he was more conveniently situated for the management of his private affairs. He left Italy in 1663, and in his way through Switzerland passed three weeks with Ludlow and his companions in exile at Vevai, assuring them of his friendship and affection, and in no respect declining to own the cause for which he suffered. From thence he proceeded through Germany to Flanders, and established himself in September at Brussels. Here, at the request of his father, his portrait was taken by Van Egmont, and is still preserved at Penshurst. In this perplexed state of his affairs, Sydney's active mind was on the stretch for some honorable occupation. He accordingly seized with avidity a proposal to engage in the service of the emperor in Hungary, with a body of troops raised among his old associates, and wrote to his father to ascertain how far the government of England was disposed to countenance the design.

'If there be any thing of reality in the proposition, says he, I can ascribe it only to the desire that those in power may have to send away those who are suspected by them. They shall have their end: I will serve them in it if they please, and upon more easy terms than will be expected by others. I will undertake to transport a good strong body of the best officers and soldiers of our old army, both horse and foot. Though obtaining of this would be a very considerable advantage unto me and some of my friends, I do not ask it as a favor. I know neither they nor I shall receive any thing upon that account. The first that I ever did ask, and the least that I ever can ask, I mean the assurance of being permitted to live quietly at Penshurst, not having been granted, I am like to make few requests for the future. But as I

think that the advantage which the king expects by ridding the land of those persons, is the motive upon which the offer was made, I believe it to be a very considerable one; for they who find themselves suspected may possibly grow unquiet; the destroying of them will be a work of time, and not without difficulty and danger; and it cannot be expected that they will of their own accord leave their country, unless it be with some man of whom they have a good opinion, and all those are as little favored as I am. If it be granted, I hope to carry those who will gain honor unto the nation, wherever they go, and either find fortunes or graces for themselves. I doubt your lordship will be unwilling to propose this, lest it should make the king or ministers believe that I am upon better terms with my old companions, than you would have them think me. I desire your lordship to waive that scruple; I have credit enough with them for such a business as this is; and, if I were not thought at court to have far more than I have, they would not trouble themselves with me as much as they do. Whatsoever it is, I desire to make use of it to carry me, and a good number of those in the same condition, so far from England that those who hate us may give over suspecting us.'

This application was without effect, and Sydney had soon after additional reason to complain of the malice of his enemies at Augsburg, where he narrowly escaped assassination. Such implacable persecution drove him to the highest pitch of resentment, and disposed him to take advantage of any occasion that might offer to relieve himself and his friends from their unhappy condition, and his country from tyranny and oppression. On the breaking out of the war between England and the United Provinces in 1664, the English exiles looked forward with the most sanguine expectations to a cooperation in their favorite project of restoring the commonwealth. These hopes were encouraged by De Witt; and afterwards, when the United Provinces were joined by France, they made use of the exiles, by holding out the pretence of an invasion, to promote divisions among the English. Sydney and Ludlow were invited to Paris to conclude, under the auspices of the French government, a treaty for the restoration of the commonwealth, which had been already projected at the Hague. Sydney accordingly went to Frankfort, where he had a conference with the French resident at Mentz, who had repaired thither to meet them. Ludlow distrusting such allies, whose treachery towards his friends was still fresh in his recollection, declined any participation in the scheme. On being assured of personal

safety, Sydney proceeded alone to Paris, where he laid before the court his proposals for exciting an insurrection in England, demanding at the same time one hundred thousand crowns for that purpose. This the French government were not disposed to advance, until some disposition was shown on the part of his countrymen to concur in the undertaking. They however offered twenty thousand crowns, with the promise of further assistance when it should be thought necessary. This he declined, and, taking leave of the court, retired under a promise of security to the south of France. This chimerical project ended as might have been foreseen. The treaty of Breda was signed, (June 29, 1667,) without any provision for the unfortunate and deluded exiles. Sydney remained a long time in retirement, and very little seems to be known of him during the interval between his unsuccessful negotiation with the French court, and his return to England. He made known however the place of his retreat to his family, through sir William Temple, the English resident at Brussels, and son of his old friend and correspondent, sir John Temple. In 1670 it is said that lord Arlington, hearing from Colbert de Croissy, the French ambassador, that Sydney was at Paris, proposed that a pension should be allowed him by the king of France, and that the king of England consented to it. There is no evidence however of its ever having been paid. Indeed Sydney appears to have been still an object of great jealousy to Charles II, who frequently expressed his dread of his determined principles and courage. During his residence in France an anecdote is related of him, which is so characteristic, that we shall insert it, though we do not know that it is supported by very good authority :

‘ The king of France having taken a fancy to a fine English horse on which he had seen him mounted in a chase, requested that he would part with it at his own price. On his declining the proposal, the king, determined to take no denial, gave orders to tender him money or to seize the horse. Sydney on hearing this instantly took a pistol and shot it, saying, “ that his horse had been born a free creature, had served a free man, and should not be mastered by a king of slaves !” ’

He is supposed, in the long season of leisure which this seclusion afforded, to have digested and composed his essays on government, for which he afterwards suffered most severely

New Series, No. 9.

and unjustly. In 1677 the health of lord Leicester rapidly declined, and he became very desirous to see his son Algernon once more before he died. Through the influence of his grandson, lord Sunderland, and the intercession of the French king, this request was granted, and Henry Savile, the British ambassador at Paris, succeeded in procuring an assurance of safety. Sydney accordingly came over to England in the autumn of 1677. On the 2d of November lord Leicester died, at the age of eighty two ; and Sydney, after giving a discharge to his lordship's executors for the legacies bequeathed him, amounting only to five thousand two hundred pounds, intended to have returned immediately to his retirement. This he was unhappily prevented from doing by a suit in chancery, which his brother had commenced against him, for some portion of his father's property. The conduct of Sydney during the remainder of his life is involved in great mystery. He still continued the same bold and decided opposition to the arbitrary measures of the court, and was regarded by them with great suspicion. When the nation, soon after the marriage of the princess Mary with the prince of Orange, was very eager for a war with France, Sydney discouraged it with great vehemence, by which he subjected himself to the imputation of being pensioned by a foreign power. He however declared his disbelief of the king's sincerity, who was known to have discovered a most disgraceful subserviency to the French court. The parliament, which had originally shewn the most servile devotion to the wishes of the king, beginning to assume a tone of independence and decision, it was dissolved on the 24th of Jan. 1678-9, after an existence of eighteen years. A new parliament was soon after called, and Sydney, finding it impossible to return to the continent, stood for the borough of Guilford in Surry. He was warmly supported by the popular interest, but was defeated by the influence of the court party. Among his most zealous adherents was the celebrated William Penn, whose treatment on this occasion is thus related in 'Collins' Memoirs : ' One Mr Penn, a quaker, appearing for the colonel, was called into the court, and hindered from encouraging such as were for the colonel ; and told by the recorder that he was a jesuit, (in affront to the colonel,) to whom the recorder would have tendered oaths, (at that time contrary to law,) and at last the mayor turned him out of the court, and forbid him to appear amongst the colonel's party, to the great discouragement

of them ; and more particularly such as were of the same persuasion with Mr Penn ; amongst which party the colonel had several voices.' Sydney, at the instigation of Penn, presented a petition to parliament against the validity of this election, but without success. The new parliament proved less inclined than the last to favor the views of the king. The duke of York, who was under banishment, was forbidden to return to England, and a bill was passed excluding him from the throne, as a papist. These measures so alarmed the king that he prorogued the parliament on the 27th of May, without the consent or knowledge of his council, and, at the instigation of the duke of York, dissolved it in the following July. When the election for the new parliament took place, Sydney again offered himself as a candidate for the borough of Bramber in Sussex, where Penn exerted himself in his behalf with no less ardor than before. He had also the support of sir John Temple, younger brother to sir William Temple, and flattered himself with hopes of success. He was disappointed however by the exertions of his own family, who either dreading the impetuosity of his temper, or what is more probable, his firmness and decision, made interest for his younger brother Henry Sydney, then ambassador in Holland. Sydney in the mean time continued to be watched by the court with the utmost vigilance. He was accused to the king of being concerned in a plot of the nonconformists, which however, in an audience with his majesty he succeeded in explaining. He was near being involved in the *meal tub plot*, which, added to other persecutions, fixed him in the resolution to return to France, and the termination of his lawsuit removing the only obstacle, he went so far as to purchase in a friend's name a small estate in that country. Mr Meadley here takes notice of a charge which has been brought against Sydney of a mercenary intercourse with the French government. It is certain that when a project was in agitation of a league with the United Provinces against France, soon after the marriage of the prince of Orange with the princess Mary, Barillon, the French minister in England, entered into intrigues with the popular party for the purpose of preventing that measure. The correspondence between that minister and Louis XIV, which has been long before the world, puts this fact beyond a doubt. Barillon in his letters mentions the individuals with whom he has intercourse, and the sums of money he has paid to each. Among these are the

duke of Buckingham, lord Hollis, Mr Beber, Mr Harwood, Mr Montagu, lord Russell, and Mr Sydney. The two latter are mentioned as acting from the highest principles of honor, and the views of them all as having been to throw difficulties in the way of Charles' projects by the aid of France. Mr Meadley, aware of the imputation to which the character of Sydney is exposed, if the fact of the receipt of two sums of money with which Barillon has charged him be admitted, endeavors to make it appear that this minister deceived his master, and pretended to have advanced to the English republicans the sums that he actually put in his own pocket. In order to support this supposition, he adduces some expressions of Madame de Sevigné, from which it appears that Barillon amassed a great deal of wealth in his employment. This fact, when opposed to the extreme improbability of his resorting to a deception which could hardly fail to be discovered by his government, is not sufficient to sustain such a presumption. It must be conceded that the friends of liberty, alarmed and terrified to the last degree by the violent and despotic measures of the king, were driven to the necessity of opposing him with his own weapons. The servile and disgraceful manner in which the king and his ministers had sold themselves to France is well known; is it then surprising that these patriotic individuals should avail themselves of an opportunity to draw the means of serving the true interest of their country, from the same source to which their unprincipled monarch had resorted for the purpose of enslaving it? That most of them had any other motive in these negotiations is extremely unlikely. With regard to Sydney it is hardly credible, when his character and the circumstances of his connexion with Barillon are taken into consideration. He speaks of that minister in his letters with the greatest contempt, for his arrogant pretensions and disgusting manners. Barillon himself does not mention Sydney, as one with whom he is in habits of intimacy, much less as one whom he considers as his creature. 'Mr Algernon Sydney,' he says in one of his letters, 'is a man of the most enlarged views, and elevated designs, all of which are directed towards the establishment of a republic.' In another letter he observes, that many of the opposition, particularly Mr Sydney, had endeavored to convince him that it was a great error to suppose that the interests of France were necessarily opposed to the existence of a republican form of government in Eng-

land, and adds some of the reasons which were urged by them with that view. It seems therefore certain that if Sydney did receive assistance from France, it was with the intention of aiding the attainment of this darling object of his life. This presumption is confirmed by the difficulty of reconciling any other conclusion with Sydney's circumstances and previous conduct. Though not rich, he was not avaricious, and by no means so needy as to be driven to the necessity of resorting to such means of support. If he had been desirous of bettering his fortune, he had let slip many opportunities of doing it, much less exceptionable than this. Is it credible that a man, who at an early age had quitted the service of his king, in whose army he held a respectable rank, and entered into that of the opposite party, who again deserted Cromwell, and gave up his hopes of preferment, because he would not bend to his views, who rejected the tempting offers of Monk, and submitted to exile and want, rather than abjure his principles, should in his old age, when he had little to enjoy and less to hope for, degrade himself into the hireling of a foreign court? This may be true, but it requires stronger proof than has yet been produced to convince us of it. To return, the king on the dissolution of the parliament convened at Oxford in March 1681 issued a 'Declaration,' justifying his conduct in these repeated exertions of the royal authority. To this an answer appeared, entitled, 'A just and modest vindication of the proceedings of the two last parliaments.' The first sketch of this answer was from Sydney's pen, although it was afterwards redrawn by Somers, and finally corrected by sir William Jones.

Meanwhile the rapid strides with which the court was proceeding in the course of despotism, in open violation of justice and decency, filled the popular party with alarm, and induced them to cast their eyes on the duke of Monmouth, by favoring whose pretensions to the throne they hoped to avert the threatened danger. The leaders of that party accordingly entered into an intimate connexion with that nobleman. Sydney for some time declined all participation in their measures, principally from his aversion to lord Shaftsbury, who took a leading part in their counsels, and for whose character and conduct he entertained the greatest contempt. In November, 1682, lord Shaftsbury died, and Sydney was soon after prevailed upon by his friend, the earl of Essex, to bear a part in the consultations of that nobleman, the duke of Monmouth,

lord Russell, and the younger Hampden, on the situation of public affairs. The lord Howard of Escricke, an unprincipled but insinuating man, was by Sydney's persuasion admitted to their confidence. He had not long before been committed to the tower for a treasonable libel. Sydney on that occasion had interested himself warmly in his behalf, which led to an intimacy between them, that proved fatal not only to Sydney but his unfortunate associates. What was the nature of the measures agreed upon at these meetings we have no means of knowing, but by the declaration of lord Howard on the trials of Russell and Sydney, which is liable to great objections. That they were desirous to devise measures to guard against the arbitrary proceedings of the court, and to protect themselves and their country from impending ruin is very probable. The following is the account given by sir John Dalrymple of the characters and views of the associates. 'Russell, Hampden, and Essex, intended nothing more than to exclude the duke of York and to fix the barriers of the constitution with precision. Sydney aimed at the destruction of monarchy, and on its ruins to found that republic which in imagination he adored. Monmouth hoped amid public distractions to pave the way for himself to the throne. Howard, with luxuriant eloquence and wit, adopted the views of each particular person and incited all to vigor and action, feeling for moments what they felt through life.' The proceedings of such distinguished persons were not unobserved by the court, who waited only for a pretence to fall upon them with the whole weight of its vengeance. Such an occasion was not long wanting. The *Rye house plot*, which was an extravagant project of certain deluded madmen to assassinate the king and the duke of York on their return from Newmarket, was the pretext laid hold of to get possession of the victims. Rumsey, one of those who were implicated in the assassination plot surrendered himself as a witness, and Sydney had many intimations from his friends of a design to arrest him. But notwithstanding that the duke of Monmouth had retired, Sydney protesting his innocence, took no precautions for his safety. On the 26th of June, whilst at dinner, he was arrested by an order from the privy council in the king's name, and in the course of a few minutes a second messenger arrived with an order to secure his papers. Finding nothing concealed, the messenger took possession of some manuscripts which lay upon the table,

and packing them in a trunk which stood beside it, desired Sydney to affix his seal. This he declined doing, as he was ignorant what had been put in. The messenger then affixed his own seal, promising that the packages should not be opened except in Sydney's presence. He could never afterwards however obtain possession of them. When brought before the privy council, he prudently declined answering most of the questions that were put to him, well knowing what advantage would be taken of any unguarded admissions. Although nothing appeared against him to justify his detention, he was most illegally committed to the tower, where his confinement was extremely rigorous. His money and bills in the hands of his banker, and all his other property, even to his wearing apparel, were seized. His friends, and even his servants, were denied access to him for the purpose of carrying him a change of linen. It was not till after repeated applications to the king and council, that Ducasse, a Frenchman in his confidence, was permitted to attend him. Lord Russell was already in custody. Howard, who was still at large, was continually protesting his disbelief of a plot and his ignorance of the alleged conspiracy. He applied to Sydney's servants to be intrusted with their master's plate, declaring his conviction of his innocence, and expressing his own great obligations to him in his imprisonment. He evinced nevertheless the greatest consternation, and was advised by his friends to keep out of the way. On the eighth of July, however, he was taken in his own house while endeavoring to conceal himself in a chimney. Hambden and Essex were soon afterwards committed to the tower, lord Grey of Wark, who was one of the association, having effected his escape, and the duke of Monmouth still evading his pursuers.

On the 20th of July three persons, convicted of a treasonable design to assassinate the king, suffered death, protesting, however, their entire ignorance of the crime for which they died. Lord Essex was found in his apartment in the tower with his throat cut. As he was supposed to have died by his own hands, this circumstance was made use of to produce an unfavorable influence on the minds of the jury against lord Russell, whose trial was hurried on that it might lose none of its effect. The principal evidence against him was lord Howard, who owed his own life to the sacrifice of his associates. Lord Russell was convicted of treason, and executed on the

twenty-first of July, discovering the greatest firmness during his trial, and the most dignified composure in the hour of death.

In the mean time the court was making the most strenuous exertions to procure evidence against Sydney. The lord Howard was ready to swear to the same facts against Sydney, which he had stated on the trial of lord Russell, but as the statute 25 Edward III, on which alone Sydney could be indicted, required two witnesses to an overt act of treason, it became necessary to procure a second. For this purpose the prisons were ransacked in vain, nor was the court more successful in an attempt to derive matter of accusation from himself. When a committee of the privy council were sent to examine him in the tower, he treated them roughly, observing, 'that they seemed to want evidence, and were come to draw it from his own mouth, but they should have nothing from him.' But the crown lawyers having gotten their prey within their fangs, were not to be disappointed. They accordingly resorted to other means to make up for this defect of testimony, and to counteract the talents and intrepidity of Sydney.

The chief justice of the king's bench being lately dead, sir George Jefferies, a king's sergeant, who had distinguished himself by his violence at lord Russell's trial, was promoted to the vacant seat, (Sept. 29, 1683,) and joined with three colleagues of similar principles and views. As a warning to all other judges, sir Francis Pemberton, who had conducted himself with some regard to decency at lord Russell's trial, was removed from his seat at the privy council, and his office as chief justice of the common pleas. It is known that Jefferies even consulted with the crown lawyers on the means of compassing the prisoner's death. At the same time two individuals entirely devoted to the service of the crown were appointed sheriffs of London and Middlesex, by a commission under the great seal, who selected for under sheriffs two others of the same character. These preliminary steps being taken, Sydney was informed by the lieutenant of the tower on the 6th of November, that he had received orders to bring him before the court of king's bench, by a writ of *habeas corpus* on the following day. He was conveyed to Westminster early in the morning, before the grand jury were assembled, or any *bill of indictment* had been exhibited against him, and

detained about an hour at a tavern, till the bill was found. On its being presented, he was hurried to the bar through a guard of soldiers and immediately arraigned. The indictment was long, confused, and perplexed, setting forth no overt act of treason precisely, nor any person with whom he had conspired. To this bill he excepted as vicious and erroneous, and desired to see the record, which was peremptorily denied by the chief justice, who insisted that he must either plead to the indictment or demur, which amounted to a confession of the fact. He then offered a special plea, quoting the three acts of treason, and desiring that the separate charges might be distinguished ; which was also refused, unless waving the fact he would rest the case solely on that plea. Sydney then attempted to make some remarks in his own vindication, when he was interrupted by the chief justice, who declared, that unless he pleaded in the usual form, sentence should be instantly pronounced. He was thus obliged to abandon every advantage which the law allowed him, and by pleading not guilty to come to a general issue on the merits of his cause. A fortnight was allowed him to prepare for his trial ; but a copy of the indictment, and the assistance of counsel, unless he should assign any particular point of law which the court might think proper to debate, were refused. The indictment was then read to him in Latin, but all information respecting the statute on which the attorney-general intended to proceed against him was refused.

When the day of trial approached, Sydney petitioned the king for a copy of the record of lord Russell's attainder, and of the indictment against himself, as necessary to his just defence ; but his petition appears to have been disregarded. When Sydney was furnished with a pannel from which the jury was to be drawn, he found that it consisted chiefly of men of ruined character or fortunes, with or without freeholds, and chosen expressly by the solicitors of the crown. When Sydney appeared before the court, on the 21st of November, a copy of the indictment was again peremptorily refused to him, although he produced a transcript of the statute by which it is expressly allowed in all cases, and to all men. The jury being called, he excepted against several persons as being in the king's service, wanting freeholds, or having exposed themselves to infamy by some specific misconduct. But every special objection being overruled, he was forced to challenge peremp-

torily those whom he knew to have been chosen for his destruction, and thereby when his challenges were exhausted to admit of others of the same cast. After a speech from sir Robert Sawyer, the attorney-general, detailing the heads of the accusation, West, who having confessed many treasons was still unpardoned, Rumsey and Keiling were examined as to the design of a general insurrection, and although totally unconnected with the prisoner, were allowed to depose against him whatever they had heard from others. The king's counsel had not the effrontery to pretend that this was competent evidence, but it was artfully introduced to influence the minds of the jury, and to prepare them for the testimony of lord Howard. His evidence did not materially vary from what he had deposed at the trial of lord Russell. He gave a detail of two conversations which had passed between that nobleman, the duke of Monmouth, lord Essex, Young Hampden, the prisoner and himself, on the most effectual means of defending the public interest from invasion, without involving themselves in the obloquy of entertaining any selfish designs. Nothing, however, of moment appeared to be agreed upon at these meetings, excepting the necessity of settling an understanding with the earl of Argyle, and also of communicating with sir John Cochrane and some other leading whigs in Scotland, when Sydney recommended Aaron Smith as a person whom they might safely trust, and afterwards provided him with money for his journey. Of this last circumstance, however, the witness only spoke from hearsay. The crown lawyers being obliged to rest their case on the unsupported assertions of lord Howard, who had testified nothing of a treasonable nature, ventured to supply the defect of a second witness, by producing some papers found in Sydney's study, and supposed to be in his handwriting, in which the paramount authority of the people, and the lawfulness of resisting an oppressive government, were ably and eloquently maintained. A few passages best suited to their purpose being read at the request of the attorney-general, Sydney complained of this partial proceeding; when the chief justice, intending to entrap him, slyly asked to what heads he would refer. Perceiving the drift, however, he calmly answered, 'let him give an account of it that did it.' He afterwards requested, that as parts of the writing had been quoted the whole might be read, but this was refused. The earl of Anglesey, lord

Clare, lord Paget, bishop Burnet, and two gentlemen of the Howard family, were called on the part of the prisoner to impeach the credibility of lord Howard, who all deposed either to his solemn asseverations of the prisoner's innocence, or to his repeated disavowal of all knowledge or belief of the supposed plot. Blake, a draper, testified to his lordship's saying, 'that he must not have his pardon till the drudgery of swearing was over.' Ducasse and two female servants gave evidence to his denying all communication with their master on this subject, and applying to them for the custody of his plate and goods. Lord Howard admitted a debt to Sydney with which he had been charged; and some other witnesses did not appear. Sydney, though unassisted by counsel, defended himself with great calmness and ability, in which he was aided by notes handed him by several gentlemen of the bar, who, though not allowed to speak in his behalf, had the spirit and courage to stand by him.

He commented with great ingenuity on the evidence, exposed the incredibility and inadequacy of lord Howard's testimony, and the absurdity and illegality of introducing papers containing theoretical remarks on politics, written for aught appeared twenty years before, as evidence of a conspiracy against the life of the king. The court, aware of his hasty temper, endeavored by frequent interruptions, to provoke and embarrass him. Sydney, however, bore it all with an admirable coolness, never suffering himself to be driven from his point. Finch, the solicitor-general, closed the prosecution, when Sydney attempted to add a few words, but was interrupted by Jefferies, who, in his charge to the jury, sanctioned all the principles of law advanced by the king's counsel, and artfully endeavored to blend the consultations in which Sydney had been implicated, with the other supposed conspiracies for an insurrection, and attempt upon the life of the king. The charge of Withens, one of the judges, is so extraordinary, that we shall give it at large from the state trials. 'Gentlemen, it is fit you should have our opinion; in all points of law we agree with the lord chief justice. Says colonel Sydney, Here's a mighty conspiracy, but nothing comes of it. Who must we thank for that? None but the Almighty Providence. One of themselves was troubled in conscience and comes and discovers it. If Keiling had not discovered it, God knows whether we might have been alive at this day.' Jefferies fol-

lowed the jury out of court, under pretence of taking some refreshment, and when they were consulting about their verdict, gave them more particular instructions. In about half an hour they returned with a verdict of *guilty*. Sydney desired, before the verdict was recorded, to examine them by turns, whether every one of them had found him guilty, and more especially, whether they had found him guilty of compassing the king's death, of levying war against the king, or of any treason within the statute 25 Edward III, or of any proved against him by two witnesses, but the chief justice would not allow him to proceed.

Three days after the trial, (24 Nov.) the duke of Monmouth surrendered himself to the secretary of state, and received a full pardon for his share in the supposed plot. This circumstance revived the hopes of Sydney's friends, and he was persuaded to deliver through Lord Halifax a petition to the king, stating the irregularity of the proceedings against him, and praying an audience with his majesty. This, through the influence of the duke of York, was denied, and Jefferies declared in his furious way, 'that either Sydney or himself must die.' On the 26th, when he was brought up for sentence and asked what he had to say in bar of judgment, Sydney again urged the extreme injustice with which he had been treated. While insisting on the rejection of his special plea, judge Withens who seemed to be drunk, gave him the lie; on which he calmly observed, 'that having lived above three score years, he had never received or deserved such language, having never asserted any thing that was false.' Finding all that he stated in arrest of judgment thus violently overborne by his judges, he said aloud, 'I must appeal to God and the world, I am not heard.' The chief justice, after declaiming on the prisoner's guilt, his obligations to the king, and the treasonable nature of his writings, proceeded to pronounce sentence of death in the usual form. 'Then, O God, O God,' said Sydney, with an unaltered mien, 'I beseech thee sanctify these sufferings unto me, and impute not my blood to the country nor the city through which I am to be drawn. Let no inquisition be made for it, but if any, and the shedding of blood that is innocent must be avenged, let the weight of it fall upon those that maliciously persecute me for righteousness' sake.' *Lord chief justice*—'I pray God work in you a temper fit for the other world, for I see you are not fit for this.'

Colonel Sydney, (stretching forth his hand,) ‘my lord, feel my pulse, and see if I am disordered. I bless God I never was in better temper than I am now.’ The friends of Sydney still made great efforts to save him, and persuaded him, although he entertained no hopes of success, to present a second petition to the king, that his punishment might be changed into perpetual banishment. This had no greater success than the first, and Sydney, resigning himself to his lot, employed the interval allowed him after sentence, in exercises of religion, and in drawing up an appeal to posterity on the injustice of his fate. When he saw the warrant for his execution, he expressed no concern, and amazed all around, by his calm demeanor.

On the morning of the 7th of December the sheriffs again proceeded to the tower, and about ten o’clock receiving Sydney from the hands of the lieutenant, conducted him on foot to the place of execution on Tower Hill. He was attended only by two of his brother’s servants. He ascended the scaffold with a firm, undaunted mein, worthy, says bishop Burnet, of the man who set up *Marcus Brutus* as his model. He gave a paper, containing a manly vindication of his innocence, to the sheriffs, observing, that ‘he had made his peace with God, and had nothing more to say to men;’ but he declined either reading it or having it read to the multitude, and offered to tear it if it was not received. He then pulled off his coat, hat, and doublet, saying, ‘that he was ready to die, and would give them no farther trouble.’ He gave three guineas to the executioner, and perceiving the fellow grumble as if the sum were inadequate, desired a servant to give him a guinea or two more. He then kneeled down, and after a solemn pause of a few minutes, calmly laid his head upon the block. Being asked by the executioner if he should rise again, he replied, ‘not till the general resurrection—strike on.’ The executioner obeyed, and severed his head from his body at a blow. His remains, being placed in a coffin, were immediately restored to his friends; and on the following day interred with his ancestors at Penshurst. Powerful as the interest of the court was at this time, it could not stifle the voice of the nation, which cried out against the violence and infamy of these proceedings. The time was not far distant when the memory of Sydney was to receive from his countrymen the only reparation in their power to make for his cruel fate. By a bill brought into parliament April 24, 1689, which passed both

houses, his conviction and attainder are declared wrongful and unjust, and all records and proceedings regarding them are ordered to be cancelled, that they might not be visible to future times. The memory of such iniquity was not to be so easily effaced, and the characters of Russell and Sydney, and their prosecutors, have been handed down together to posterity, who have awarded the retribution they respectively merit. It was the fate of Sydney, as it has been of many great men, to be superior to the age in which he lived. He was equally above the cant and bigotry of one party in the state, and the profligacy and corruption of the other. He was enlightened in an age of prejudice, disinterested in an age of venality. He is one of the few men, who have followed steadily in practice the principles they supported in their writings. His discourses on government, which appeared soon after his death, were generally read and admired, but as mankind has advanced in the science of government and civil liberty, this treatise has been gradually neglected. What was considered by Sydney's contemporaries as a fanciful theory, has long been matter of experience. From this circumstance, some persons in later times have been led to treat his political writings with a degree of contempt they by no means deserve, not reflecting that he had to contend against doctrines, which, at the present day, can hardly be mentioned with gravity. Sydney has the merit of having been one of the first to discover and defend the maxim, that the true and only basis of a free government is *the will of the people*. These principles have since been recognised in England, and are adopted and acted upon in their fullest extent, in our own admirable constitutions. Mr Meadley deserves the highest praise for his manly and able vindication of the character and opinions of Sydney, at a time when such sentiments are by no means the surest passport to favor in his own country. Such examples cannot be too often held up or too strongly recommended. To us, as republicans, they are invaluable. The integrity, the virtue, the constancy of Sydney should animate us to hope and to struggle, even in the darkest times; while the arbitrary and detestable measures resorted to for his destruction, teach a lesson which should never be forgotten by the citizens of a free state; that the only support of an equal government is the virtue of the governed, for when that fails, the very institutions that are established for the protection of life and property, may be converted into the most dreadful engines of oppression and injustice.